

# Public Transit

## The Public Transit Section

The Public Transit Section of the Multimodal Division functions as the grant administrator for federal transit programs. It also administers the Public Mass Transportation Fund (PMTF), the state sales tax funded program that assists established public transit systems. It works with local governments in planning and pursuing public transit systems in cities, towns and counties throughout Indiana.

## Transit Programs

### Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program (Federal Transit Section 5310)

This federal program provides capital assistance to private non-profit organizations and eligible public bodies that deliver special transportation services to the elderly and/or persons with disabilities. Approximate funding is \$1.7 million annually.

## Did you know... ?

- In 2002, there were 52 publicly-funded transit systems in the state.
- More than 90,000 passenger trips are provided each day in Indiana.
- Approximately 80 percent of Indiana residents have access to a public transit system.
- Every dollar invested in transit results in an economic return of \$1.38.
- A person commuting via transit, instead of driving alone, would save 200 gallons of gasoline each year.
- Transit reduces traffic congestion, energy consumption and air pollution.

### Metropolitan Planning Program (Federal Transit Administration Section 5303)

This federal planning and technical studies program is available to the 12 designated metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in Indiana's urbanized areas with a population greater than 50,000. The Section 5303 Program assists the MPOs in developing short and long range transportation plans that must include transit as a component. Its approximate funding is \$780,000 annually.

### State Planning and Research Program (Federal Transit Section 5313 b)

These funds are apportioned to states for planning and technical studies as well as demonstrations, management training and cooperative research. INDOT may authorize a portion of these funds to supplement the Section 5303 funds allocated to urbanized areas. Approximate funding is \$187,000 annually.

<http://www.in.gov/dot>



## Rural Transit Programs

### Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program (Federal Transit Section 5311)

This program for small urban and rural areas with a population less than 50,000 supports public transit systems by providing funding for feasibility studies, capital and operating assistance and inter-city routes. Public systems apply and receive funding through INDOT's Public Transit System. Since 1997, this program has added 12 new public transit systems. Approximate annual funding is \$7 million.

### Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) (Federal Transit Section 5311 b2)

This program is provided through the Institute for Urban Transportation at Indiana University in Bloomington. Technical assistance is provided to rural public and specialized transit providers. Approximate annual funding is \$124,000.

## Trends in Public Transit

A variety of improvements in public transit are currently on the horizon. The most promising is the use of ITS technology, which will allow the electronic tracking of transit vehicles.

The aging population will have an effect on the need for public transit. A natural part of aging is the impairment or loss of the ability to operate a vehicle; and as the large "baby-boomer" segment of the population grows older, their mobility needs will impact our transportation system.

"Welfare to Work" or "Access to Jobs" grant programs have become important in recent years because of the recognition that transportation is a critical step in getting people to jobs.

The Inter-City Bus Program, a requirement of the Federal Section 5311 Program, is funded through 15 percent of the state's annual apportionment of section 5311

funds. Indiana has five inter-city routes providing bus transportation between Indianapolis and South Bend/Elkhart, Fort Wayne, Louisville, Johnson County and Grant County.

In Indiana, there are currently efforts to establish coordinated systems in southern Indiana, northwest Indiana, Allen County and the central Indiana region. These efforts are in different stages of development.

## 2002 Public Transit Systems

